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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 21 NOV 2005

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 501800 EMN/mjw	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
	See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/NZ2004/000173	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 4 August 2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 4 August 2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 H05K 7/20		
Applicant RAYHILL LIMITED et al.		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of 10 sheets, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 15%;">Box No. I</td> <td style="width: 70%;">Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand 14 April 2005	Date of completion of the report 15 November 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer Sue Thomas Telephone No. (02) 6283 2454

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000173

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- the international application as originally filed/furnished

- the description:

pages 1, 7 as originally filed/furnished

pages* 2-6 received by this Authority on 11 November 2005 with the letter of 11 November 2005

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

- the claims:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* 8, 9 received by this Authority on 11 November 2005 with the letter of 11 November 2005

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

- the drawings:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages* 1/3-3/3 received by this Authority on 11 November 2005 with the letter of 11 November 2005

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages
- the claims, Nos.
- the drawings, sheets/figs
- the sequence listing (*specify*):
- any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages
- the claims, Nos.
- the drawings, sheets/figs
- the sequence listing (*specify*):
- any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000173

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-12	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-12	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-12	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The invention is an air circulation and ventilation unit including housing to fit at least partially over ceiling of equipment cabinet including over at least one vent in ceiling, interior of housing in communication with interior of cabinet, housing includes housing vent closure moveable between open position, air flow through vent between outside and inside of housing, and closed position, little or no airflow through vent between outside and inside of housing, and controller to control position of housing vent closure.

The closest prior art, US 4495545 A, provides such a housing and controller, but the airflow through the vent is not determined only by the position of its closure.

All claims, 1-12, are both novel and inventive, and have industrial applicability.

In broad terms the invention comprises an air circulation and ventilation unit including:
a housing configured to fit at least partially over the ceiling of an equipment cabinet
including fitting over at least one vent in the ceiling of the cabinet, so that the interior of
the housing is in communication with the interior of the cabinet, the housing having a
5 housing vent including a closure moveable between an open position in which air is
permitted to flow through the housing vent between the outside of the housing and the
inside of the housing and a closed position in which little or no air is permitted to flow
through the housing vent between the outside of the housing and the inside of the
housing, and a controller to control the position of the housing vent closure.

10

Preferably the air circulation and ventilation unit further includes a temperature sensor
on the inside of the cabinet attached to the controller that provides an indication of the
temperature inside the cabinet.

15

Preferably the air circulation and ventilation unit further includes a fan inside the
housing to circulate air.

Preferably the fan is controlled by the controller inside the air circulation and ventilation
unit.

20

In some embodiments the air circulation and ventilation unit may include a heater inside
the housing that is controlled by the temperature sensor inside the cabinet.

25

Preferably the controller includes a solenoid that controls the position of the housing
vent closure.

Preferably the housing vent closure rotates between the open and closed positions.

30

Preferably the air circulation and ventilation unit is provided in combination with an
equipment cabinet having a ceiling, with the housing fitting over at least one vent in the
ceiling of the cabinet, so that the interior of the housing is in communication with the
interior of the cabinet.

Preferably the combination further includes a roof over the air circulation and ventilation unit.

Preferably the combination includes a fan inside the cabinet to circulate air.

5

Preferably the housing vent is offset from the cabinet vent(s).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

10 The invention will be further described by way of example only and without intending to be limiting with reference to the following drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 shows a cabinet with an air circulation and ventilation unit of the invention with the vent in the open position;

15 Figure 2 shows a cabinet with an air circulation and ventilation unit of the invention with the vent in the closed position; and

Figure 3 shows an embodiment of the air circulation and ventilation unit of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

20

Figure 1 shows one embodiment of air circulation and ventilation unit 2 of the invention attached to a cabinet 1. Cabinet 1 has a lower vent and filter 6 and upper vents 5 and 8 (in the ceiling of the cabinet) through which air can circulate. The lower vent and filter 6 receives air through plinth vent 7. The plinth vent may form part of a separate piece 25 that is attached to the bottom of the cabinet.

In general cabinet 1 will be insulated to retain some heat inside the cabinet and reduce the amount of noise that escapes from the cabinet.

30 Air circulation and ventilation unit 2 sits between the ceiling and roof of cabinet 1. The air circulation and ventilation unit includes at least one vent 4 and controller 3. Vent 4 includes a closure 4a that can be rotated between an open position (shown in Figure 1).

and a closed position (shown in Figure 2). Controller 3 controls the position of the vent closure. The interior of air circulation and ventilation unit 2 is in communication with the interior of the cabinet through vents 5 and 8.

- 5 As can be seen in Figure 1 vent 4 in the air circulation and ventilation unit is spaced apart from vents 5 and 8 in the ceiling of the cabinet. An external roof 9 protects the air circulation and ventilation unit and inside of the cabinet from rain, dust particles and the like while still maintaining a tamper proof cabinet and allowing ventilation. Although Figures 1 and 2 show a cabinet with two ceiling vents, the number, size and position of
10 the ceiling vents in the cabinet may vary. The shape of roof 9 and the shape, number and position of the vents may also vary.

In preferred embodiments the air circulation and ventilation unit includes at least one temperature sensor. In a preferred embodiment the temperature sensor is positioned
15 inside the cabinet. In an alternative embodiment a temperature sensor is positioned inside the air circulation and ventilation unit. The controller 3 receives an indication of when the temperature is outside a predetermined range as sensed by the temperature sensor. If the temperature falls outside the predetermined operating range the controller may operate the vent 4 to open or close the vent. For example if the internal
20 temperature of the cabinet rises above the upper limit of the temperature range the temperature sensor sends an indication to controller 3 and the controller opens vent 4 to allow air to circulate into the roof and to the outside of the cabinet as shown by arrows 13 and 14. Likewise if the temperature within the cabinet falls below the lower limit of the temperature range the temperature sensor sends an indication to the controller 3 and
25 the controller closes vent 4 to prevent air circulating within the cabinet from exiting the cabinet via the roof space. In one embodiment controller 3 is a solenoid, although any suitable controller may be used.

In one embodiment the air circulation and ventilation unit includes a fan provided in the
30 cabinet, under a vent, for example under vent 5. In an alternative embodiment the air circulation and ventilation unit may include a fan that may be positioned underneath air

circulation and ventilation unit 2. The fan may be controlled by a temperature sensor inside the cabinet to assist in air circulation.

- 5 If the cabinet and air circulation and ventilation unit is housed in an area that experiences very cold temperatures the air circulation and ventilation unit may include a heater to heat the inside of the cabinet if the temperature inside the cabinet falls below a predetermined lower limit. In one embodiment the heater is controlled by a temperature sensor inside the cabinet.
- 10 As can be seen from the arrows in Figure 1 when vent 4 is open air circulates from the bottom of the cabinet and out through the top and under the openings in roof 9 following arrows 15, 16, 17, 13, and 14. This allows air to circulate through the cabinet through the air circulation and ventilation unit 2 and out of the cabinet. This cools equipment in the cabinet if the temperature inside the cabinet is greater than that outside
- 15 the cabinet.

Figure 2 shows an air circulation and ventilation unit of the invention with the vent closed. When the vent is closed air circulates within the cabinet. As can be seen in Figure 2 when vent 4 is closed little or no air can escape through vent 4 and into the

20 roof space of the cabinet. The air inside the cabinet circulated between the interior of the cabinet 1 and the interior of housing 2 through vents 5 and 8 as shown by arrows 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23. Fresh air may still enter the cabinet through lower vent and filter 6.

25 Controller 3 may respond to information from temperature sensor(s) and/or to an indication of the load on the components. For example if the component load is high the amount of heat generated by the components will be greater than when the component load is low so the vent may be opened during periods of high component load. In an alternative embodiment the controller may open and close the vent based on

30 the time of day and the day of the year. This system has less flexibility to changing weather and component load conditions. Controller 3 may also respond to a condensation indication so as to reduce condensation within the cabinet. In one embodiment controller 3 is a thermostatically controlled solenoid. In an alternative

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embodiment controller 3 may include a microprocessor or the like and receive temperature indications from the temperature sensor(s). The controller may then open or close vent 4 in response to temperature or other indications. In this embodiment the controller may also control any fans or heaters and these can be controlled independently of the vent.

Figure 3 is a plan view of an air circulation and ventilation unit of the invention. The air circulation and ventilation unit includes housing 2, controller 10 and vent 4 and vent closure 4a. The bottom of the housing unit (not shown) is open to allow communication between the inside of the air circulation and ventilation unit and the interior of the cabinet. Vent 4 provides a means of communication between the inside of the air circulation and ventilation unit (and therefore the interior of the cabinet) and the roof space of the cabinet when the vent is open. In this embodiment controller 10 is a solenoid that receives an indication from a temperature sensor (not shown) and in response opens or closes vent 4. In a preferred embodiment the temperature sensor is inside the equipment cabinet. Alternatively the temperature sensor can be housed inside the housing 2. In a further alternative embodiment a temperature sensor is housed outside the cabinet and housing to provide an indication of the outside air temperature.

As can be seen in Figure 3 vent closure 4a rotates about an axle (not shown) through housing 2. Attached to the axis is metal strip 12 which forms a connection between the axle and the solenoid 10 allowing the solenoid to open and close the vent by rotating the vent axle. The vent also includes micro-switch 11 that provides an indication of whether the vent closure 4a is open or closed. Micro-switch 11 can be remotely monitored so that the opening and closing of vent closure 4a can be tracked. Micro-switch 11 can also be used to operate a fan inside the cabinet.

As an equipment protection mechanism in the event of a power failure the solenoid may be arranged to operate the vent to open the vent so that the equipment inside the cabinet does not over heat. In extreme cold environments the solenoid may be arranged to close the vent in the event of a power failure.

While vent 4 is shown as extending across housing 2 and being only a single vent more than one vent could be provided. The position and size of vent 4 may also be altered without departing from the scope of the invention.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. An air circulation and ventilation unit including:

5 a housing configured to fit at least partially over the ceiling of an equipment cabinet including fitting over at least one vent in the ceiling of the cabinet, so that the interior of the housing is in communication with the interior of the cabinet,

10 the housing having a housing vent including a closure moveable between an open position in which air is permitted to flow through the housing vent between the outside of the housing and the inside of the housing and a closed position in which little or no air is permitted to flow through the housing vent between the outside of the housing and the inside of the housing, and

15 a controller to control the position of the housing vent closure.

2. An air circulation and ventilation unit as claimed in claim 1 further including a

20 temperature sensor attached to the controller that provides an indication of the temperature inside the cabinet.

3. An air circulation and ventilation unit as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 further including a fan inside the housing to circulate air.

25

4. An air circulation and ventilation unit as claimed in claim 3 wherein the fan is controlled by the controller.

30

5. An air circulation and ventilation unit as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 further including a heater inside the housing that is controlled by the controller.

6. An air circulation and ventilation unit as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the controller includes a solenoid that controls the position of the housing vent closure.

35

7. An air circulation and ventilation unit as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the housing vent closure rotates between the open and closed positions.
8. An air circulation and ventilation unit as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7
5 wherein the housing vent and closure are provided in an external wall of the housing.
9. The combination of an air circulation and ventilation unit as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, and an equipment cabinet having a ceiling, with the housing fitting over at least one vent in the ceiling of the cabinet, so that the interior of the housing is in
10 communication with the interior of the cabinet.
10. A combination as claimed in claim 9 further including a roof over the circulation and ventilation unit.
- 15 11. A combination as claimed in claim 9 or 10 further including a fan inside the cabinet to circulate air.
12. A combination as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein the housing vent is offset from the cabinet vent(s).

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1/3

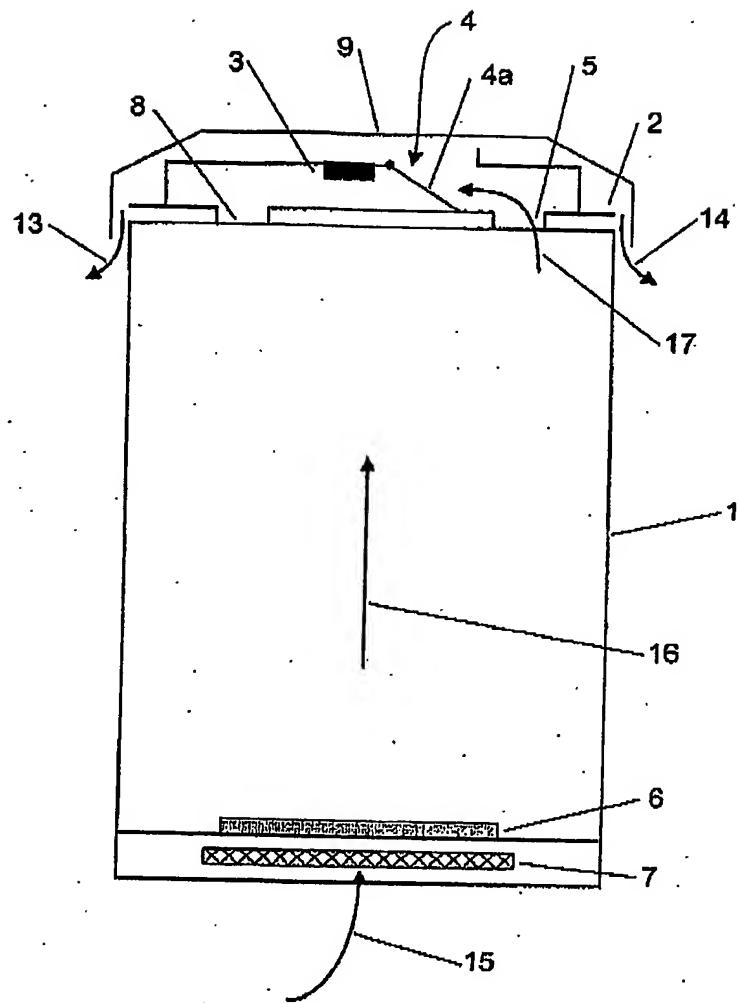


FIGURE 1

2/3

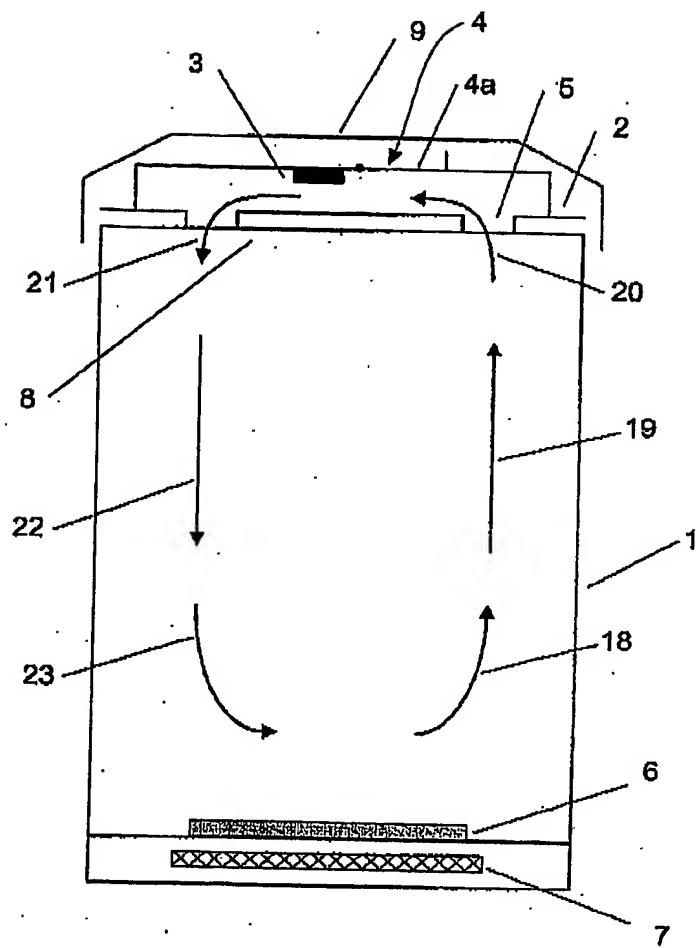


FIGURE 2

3/3

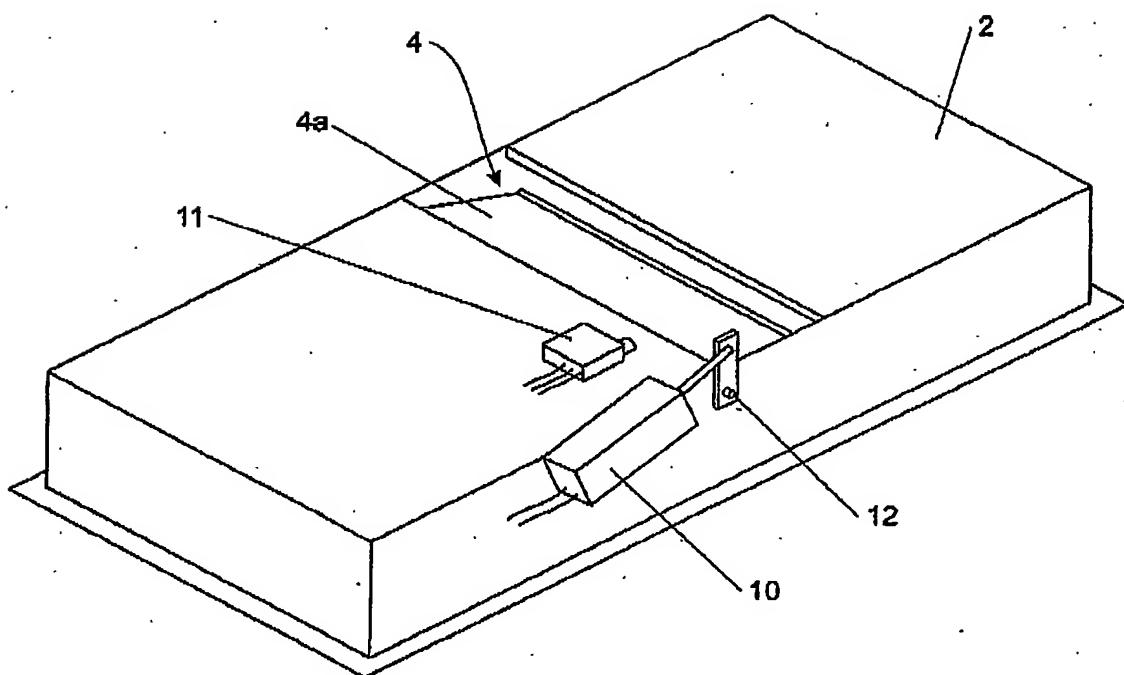


FIGURE 3

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